

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for use in a file system including at least one server and one disc storage device for access by at least one client, said method comprising the steps of:
 - a. attaching said client to said file system; and
 - b. reading a formal description of the file system by said client from said disc storage device, wherein the formal description of the file system enables said client to find and interpret at least one data structure [~~comprising~~] that includes file information [~~which~~] that enables the client to directly read and write data to and from said disc storage, block allocation for the data being performed by the server, and wherein the formal description of the file system [~~does not include~~] lacks a data structure [~~comprising~~] that includes file information.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein [~~step b.~~] reading a formal description further comprises [~~the step of~~]:

reading enough information to find and interpret the physical block and offset containing a given file's inode given its inode number.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein [~~step b.~~] reading a formal description further comprises [~~the step of~~]:

reading enough information to find and interpret the block list of a given file given an offset into the file and a length.
- 4.-5. Cancelled.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein ~~[step a.]~~ attaching said client to a file system comprises ~~[the steps of]~~:

sending a mount request; and
receiving a mount response.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, further comprising saving ~~[wherein]~~ said formal description ~~[of the file system read in step b. is saved]~~ for future use when ~~[a read request or a write]~~ an I/O request is made by said client.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, further comprising associating ~~[wherein]~~ said disc storage device ~~[is located in]~~ with a Storage Area Network (SAN).

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 wherein said client and ~~[is located in]~~ said server are implemented on the same hardware.

10.-15. Cancelled.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for reading or writing data from a storage resource, the method comprising:

acquiring, from the storage resource, a description of a file system associated with the storage resource ~~[from the storage resource]~~, wherein the description of the file system enables a client to find and interpret at least one data structure ~~[comprising]~~ having file information, and wherein the description of the file system ~~[does not include]~~ lacks a data structure ~~[comprising]~~ that includes file information; and

finding and interpreting at least one data structure ~~[comprising]~~ that includes file information for reading or writing directly to the storage resource based on the file information, block allocation for the data being performed by ~~[the]~~ a server.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising ~~[for]~~ reading or writing data blocks associated with the file system.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, further ~~[including]~~ comprising: on the basis of a file identifier, finding and interpreting a block and an offset, the block and the offset being associated with a file on said file system ~~[based on a file identifier]~~.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, further ~~[including]~~ comprising: on the basis of an offset into a file and a length, finding and interpreting a block list associated with ~~[a]~~ the file ~~[based on an offset into the file and a length]~~.

20. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for reading and writing data from a storage resource, the apparatus being configured to:

acquire, from the storage resource, a description of a file system associated with a storage resource ~~[from the storage resource]~~, wherein the description of the file system enables a client to find and interpret at least one data structure ~~[comprising]~~ having file information, and wherein the description of the file system ~~[does not include]~~ lacks a data structure ~~[comprising]~~ that includes file information; and to

find and interpret at least one data structure ~~[comprising]~~ that includes file information for reading or writing directly to the storage resource based on the file information, block allocation for the data being performed by a server.

21. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising ~~[which includes]~~ a computer configured to read and write data blocks associated with the file system.

22. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising ~~[which includes]~~ a computer configured to read and write files associated with the file system.

23. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the computer is configured to find and interpret, on the basis of a file identifier, a block and offset associated with a file [~~based on a file identifier~~].

24. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the computer is configured to find and interpret, on the basis of an offset into the file and a length, a block list associated with a file [~~based on an offset into the file and a length~~].

25. (Currently Amended) An article comprising a computer-readable medium that stores computer executable instructions for causing a computer to:

acquire [~~acquiring~~], from a storage resource, a description of a file system associated with a storage resource [~~from the storage resource~~], wherein the description of the file system enables a client to find and interpret at least one data structure [~~comprising~~] having file information, and wherein the description of the file system [~~does not include~~] lacks a data structure [~~comprising~~] that includes file information; and to

find and interpret at least one data structure [~~comprising~~] that includes file information for reading or writing directly to the storage resource based on the file information, block allocation for the data being performed by a server.

26. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 25 wherein the article includes instructions for causing the computer to write data blocks associated with the file system.

27. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 25 wherein the article includes instructions for causing the computer to write files associated with the file system.

28.-32. Canceled

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the formal description of the file system includes an algorithm used to implement the file system.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the description of the file system includes an algorithm used to implement the file system.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the description of the file system includes an algorithm used to implement the file system.

36. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 25 wherein the description of the file system includes an algorithm used to implement the file system.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the formal description of the file system does not include an algorithm used to implement the file system.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the description of the file system does not include an algorithm used to implement the file system.

39. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the description of the file system does not include an algorithm used to implement the file system.

40. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 25 wherein the description of the file system does not include an algorithm used to implement the file system.